a consultancy organisation to undertake an independent appraisal of the technical viability of the revival packages from the standpoint of funding by the Financial Institutions. The consultancy organisation has since submitted its report, based on which the Group would reformulate the revival packages. The final decision on the implementation of the reformulated revival packages would depend upon the tie-up of funding arrangements and outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

[Translation]

Scholarship to SCs/STs

*270 SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI *CHIKHALIA
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to do away with the scheme of giving scholarship to the children belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe;

(b) the maximum income limit prescribed in respect of different scholarship schemes sponsored by the Union Government for them scheme-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to enhance the income limit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure proper utilisation of the funds earmarked for the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) The maximum income ceiling prescribed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric scholarship to students belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is Rs. 44,500/- per annum. The maximum income ceiling prescribed under the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes etc. candidates is Rs. 60,000/- per annum.

(c) to (e) The income ceiling under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-matric scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has already been revised with effect from 1.10.1995 and the revised maximum income ceiling of Rs. 44,500/- per annum takes into account consumer price index for industrial workers upto October, 1995. It has also been decided to have revision of income ceiling under this Scheme once in two years and to link it with consumer price index for industrial workers. It is also proposed to enhance the existing income ceiling of Rs. 60,000/- per annum to Rs. 1,20,000/- per annum in case of the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes etc. candidates.

(f) Central assistance is released to concerned State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for a financial year under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, while invariably accounting for the actual utilisation of Central assistance in previous financial year and the unspent Central assistance if any with them is adjusted at source while releasing due Central assistance which avoids accumulation of unspent Central assistance. Under the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes etc. candidates a lump-sum amount is placed at the disposal of Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Missions abroad directly pay the scholarship, University fee and air passage for return to India for the candidates. The Ministry of Welfare itself books air-passage for selected candidates to go abroad. The system ensure proper utilisation of funds under this Scheme.

[English]

Purulia Arms Drop

*271 SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the Purulia Arms Dropping case;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Purulia Arms Dropping case has been fully resolved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) The case relating to arms dropping in Purulia district of West Bengal has been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation. After investigation, CBI has filed chargesheet against 14 persons for offences under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, Arms Act, Indian Explosives Act, Explosives Substances Act and Aircraft Act. During investigation CBI have also recovered large quantity of arms and ammunition.

(c) and (d): CBI has intimated that further investigation is continuing for locating the absconding accused persons and also to trace out others who may be involved in the case. Investigation pertaining to financial transactions abroad is also continuing through Interpol and Letter Rogatory. CBI has filed chargesheet against the accused persons based on the evidence available during investigation. The investigation has brought out involvement of a section of Anand Margis